

Torrance, California
March 1, 1955

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a regular meeting in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, March 1, 1955, at 5:30 p.m., Mayor Drale presiding.

Those responding to roll call by Deputy City Clerk Hallanger were: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Isen, Schwab and Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None. Also present were City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Hall.

At the request of Mayor Drale, Fire Chief Benner led the salute to our Flag.

Reverend Sippel of the First Christian Church opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Isen moved the minutes of the Special Meeting held on February 23, 1955, be approved as written. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Blount moved the minutes of the regular meeting held February 23, 1955, be approved as written. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Charlotte Lukes, Executive Director of the Torrance Branch Y.W.C.A., requesting permission to have a "Penny Drop" on El Prado from Sartori to Cravens Avenues, and on Sartori Avenue from Post to Marcelina Avenues, as a means of raising funds for the subject organization, on March 11 & 12, 1955. Councilman Blount moved the request be granted, subject to the approval of the Chief of Police. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Request of the Blind Industries of California to take orders for various household items.

Mayor Drale moved the City Clerk be authorized to write the subject organization, stating that the Council is in sympathy with the Blind Industries of California, but our City Ordinance does not permit door-to-door soliciting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Madrona Avenue Elementary Parent Teachers Association, requesting the annexation of Rolling Hills be handled with thoughtful consideration.

Councilman Isen moved to dispense with reading of the communication and that the same be filed in the portfolio with reference to the annexation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Rankin, requesting street name signs be installed at the following intersections, as their tract is now a year old: 180th Street and Doty Avenue, 179th Street and Doty Avenue, 179th Street and Florwood Avenue, and at 179th Street and Cordary Avenue.

When asked what the policy is regarding these signs, City Manager Stevens explained that each subdivider, at the time of starting his subdivision, is supposed to file \$25 per intersection with the Engineering Department and then the signs are periodically ordered. In his opinion a tract a year old should have these street signs installed.

Councilman Isen moved this communication be referred to the Engineering Department for particular attention. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale, no objections, so ordered.

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Petition bearing eighteen signatures, requesting traffic signals at 190th Street and Inglewood Avenue.

Councilman Blount moved the communication be referred to the Traffic Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Association, requesting STOP signs at the intersections of the following streets with Calle Mayor: Four-way stop signs at Calle Miramar and Via los Miradores and three-way stop signs at Via los Altos.

Councilman Isen moved to dispense with reading of the communication and that it be referred to the Traffic Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

State Farm Insurance Companies, reporting damage to vehicle of Walter D. Hatch, who claimed he hit a drain pipe at Portola and Sartori Avenues.

Councilman Blount moved the claim be denied and referred to our insurance carrier. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Milton Kauffman Construction Corporation, requesting a continuation of their permit to use a house trailer facility for a period of ninety days in Tract No. 17390, as construction of same is still in progress.

Mayor Drale moved the request be granted as long as the permits have been taken out. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Walteria Civic Organization, expressing appreciation for action on the rezoning of Walteria.

Councilman Isen moved the communication be filed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

A.H. Bartlett, requesting the addition of a Section to proposed Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 397, re Sales Tax, adopting reciprocal exemption.

Councilman Isen said there was an error in the third paragraph, as there should be no sales tax collected if the car is delivered to a Los Angeles address.

Councilman Isen moved the communication be filed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Gilman Corporation, requesting termination of Airport property lease, as of February 28, 1955. This communication was read at the meeting held February 23, 1955, and referred to City Manager Stevens for his recommendation.

City Manager Stevens said he did not have a final recommendation at this time, but he did not agree that the lease be terminated before we get another tenant. The trailer manufacturing firm was interested in this parcel and would have paid steady rent. In the opinion of Mr. Stevens, the City should not come out on the short end of the transaction. Mr. Stevens said he believed this lease should be terminated when we can get another tenant, which would probably be during the month of March, and recommended that we make this parcel available to other Lessees.

Councilman Benstead moved the Council concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Isen moved the City Manager be instructed to write the Gilman Corporation in connection with this matter and advise them of the Council's decision. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Communication from Engineering Department, signed by Mr. J.R. Patrick, referring to Resolution No. 2673, in which request was made for reimbursement for plan preparation for the Torrance Civic Center in the amount of \$2,920.02, and stating that the Area Supervisor of the State Department of Finance advises that their Sacramento office has found the full amount of our Chapter 47 money is \$3,989.78.

A Resolution accompanied the communication, the title to which Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2694

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE MAKING APPLICATION TO DIRECTOR OF FINANCE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR PLAN PREPARATION REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE TORRANCE CITY HALL, AND DESIGNATING THE CITY MANAGER AS AUTHORIZED AGENT OF THE CITY WITH AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT ALL NEGOTIATIONS WITH SAID DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 2673.

Mayor Drale asked if this was the money that was to have been expended on the Sewer District serving the Seaside Heights. City Manager Stevens explained that it was not; that all the money the City indicated would be paid into this District has long since been paid.

Councilman Schwab moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Schwab moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2694. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Communication from Engineering Department, signed by Mr. J.R. Patrick, submitting Resolution of Intention to vacate the streets in Tract No. 10307, the title to which Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2695

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO VACATE CERTAIN STREETS IN TRACT 10307, IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, FIXING A TIME WHEN THE CITY COUNCIL WILL MEET TO TAKE FINAL ACTION THEREON, AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2695. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Drale announced the date set for the Council to take final action on the vacation of these streets is Tuesday, March 22, 1955, at 8:00 p.m.

14. Communication from Engineering Department, signed by Mr. J.R. Patrick, submitting Resolution authorizing the execution of an easement from the City of Torrance to the Southern California Edison Company for the proposed construction of an electric line to serve the City Dump on Madrona Avenue.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read title to:

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RESOLUTION NO. 2696

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN GRANT OF EASEMENT FROM THE CITY OF TORRANCE TO THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY.

Councilman Isen asked for a recommendation from City Manager Stevens regarding this easement. Mr. Stevens replied that the easement is necessary for the operation of our City Dump.

Councilman Isen moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Isen moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2696. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

1. Communication from City Engineer Bishop, recommending that the following bond covering subdivision improvements be released: Bond No. 207107, in the amount of \$36,500.00, Tract No. 18957, Subdivider -- Southern Properties Development Company, Location -- South of Edison R/W, West of Yukon Avenue, 660 feet North of 190th Street.

Councilman Blount moved the Council concur with the recommendation of the City Engineer. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Recommendations from the Planning Commission regarding the following subjects, which had been held over from the last meeting:

(a) That the City Council consider changing the minimum lot size in the City of Torrance from 5,000 to 6,500 square feet, with a minimum frontage of sixty feet.

(b) That the City Council consider amending the Subdivision Ordinance to require ornamental street lights be provided in all new subdivisions.

(c) Recommending approval of waiver on the front setbacks of houses located on the perimeter of the cul-de-sac in Tract No. 21173.

(d) Recommending proposed amendments to Land Use Ordinance No. 612.

Mayor Drale moved these Planning Commission matters be placed on the agenda of the pre-Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 8, 1955, at 7:00 p.m. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

City Manager Stevens submitted two matters, which had been received today:

Torrance Cycle and Sports Shop, requesting the Council to permit a brick facing to be set against the six-foot strip and two-foot strip in the remodeling of their store front at 1421 Marcelina Avenue, which would be encroaching approximately four inches on the sidewalk. The communication stated that Mr. Russell of the Building Department and Mr. Patrick of the Engineering Department have no objection to the granting of the encroachment on the City property.

Councilman Isen moved the request be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Option Agreement between the City of Torrance and Hoedemaker Restaurant Corporation relative to a lease of Airport property, accompanied by a check in the amount of \$1,000.00.

City Attorney Hall stated that he had not had time to compare the proposed lease with that which we submitted.

City Manager Stevens said any acceptance should be made subject to the approval of the C.A.A.

Councilman Blount moved this matter be filed for the next meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale. Mayor Drale suggested this appear on the agenda of the pre-Council Meeting for discussion.

City Attorney Hall presented a Resolution pursuant to Section 35305 of the Government Code of the State of California and explained that this Section contains a mandatory provision that when a petition for annexation has been received the Council must, by resolution, act upon the petition by setting a date, time and place for a hearing. The purpose of this Resolution are the facts set forth to accomplish that particular Code provision.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read the entire Resolution, with the exception of the legal description, for the information of the Council.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger then read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2697

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE GIVING NOTICE OF PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE, PURSUANT TO SECTION 35305 OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA; DESIGNATING SAID TERRITORY BY THE NAME OF "ROLLING HILLS ADDITION TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE" AND SETTING A TIME AND PLACE FOR THE HEARING OF PROTESTS THEREON.

Councilman Schwab moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Schwab moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2697. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Drale announced that the date of hearing would be Tuesday, April 5, 1955, at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance.

Mayor Drale asked for clarification of the hearing already scheduled for March 7, 1955, and City Attorney Hall suggested Mayor Drale announce at that time that we are committed by Section 35305 of the Government Code to hold another hearing.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Attorney Hall stated that a lease proposal, accompanied by a check in the amount of \$25,000, has been received from Store Properties, Inc. Mr. Hall distributed copies of the document to all Councilmen.

Councilman Benstead moved the documents be received and filed, pending final disposition of the lease. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Councilman Blount stated that we have been procrastinating to a group of people in a certain water district, telling them we would take care of them, but in his opinion we were not going to have time in the City Attorney's office in the near future to do so. This matter is in reference to the Moneta Water Company.

Councilman Blount moved that competent counsel be hired to take care of this matter and see it to its ultimate conclusion. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Isen asked when Mr. Hall expected to have his Deputy and Mr. Hall said it would probably be the end of April.

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Councilman Isen stated that the California Bank has barricaded the driveway on Gramercy Avenue, so that it can no longer be used as a driveway. He suggested that another parking space and meter be provided for this space.

Councilman Isen moved this matter be referred to City Manager Stevens for recommendation and follow through. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale, no objections, so ordered.

Councilman Schwab said he had received a call regarding the center parking on Cabrillo Avenue, in which it was pointed out that there are no warning signs at the other end. People driving in from that end might not see the parked cars at night in time to avoid an accident.

Councilman Isen moved the Police Department be immediately instructed to check Cabrillo Avenue and install the proper red reflectors in each and every direction where needed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Councilman Schwab asked that an investigation be made of the hole in the street at 188th Street and Crenshaw Boulevard, in which water stands at all times.

City Manager Stevens indicated that he would have such an investigation made.

Councilman Schwab requested the repainting of the asphalt ribs where we have channelized certain streets. He referred particularly to 213th Street.

City Manager Stevens said he would see that this is done.

Mayor Drale said he would like to refer a matter to the Traffic Commission with regard to the elimination of all three-lane highways within our city. He specifically mentioned Arlington Avenue between Sepulveda Boulevard and 238th Street. Councilman Isen said there was another one in Hollywood Riviera. Mayor Drale said in his opinion these three-lane highways were one of our greatest traffic hazards and he would suggest we paint a line right down the middle, making them two-lane highways.

Mr. Oral Hunter, employee of the Bus Department, stated that he has been requested by the Bus Superintendent to pay for \$50 worth of commutation books, which had been stolen from his car last July. Mr. Hunter said he did not think it was right that he pay for these, when none of the tickets have shown up to date.

Discussion followed with Councilman Schwab moving that the matter be held over to the next pre-Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Blount. Further discussion was held and the motion was amended to include a request that Bus Superintendent Chamberlain be present when this matter is discussed. There being no objections, the action was so ordered by Mayor Drale. Councilman Isen suggested that Mr. Hunter also be present for this discussion.

Councilman Isen moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Isen moved the meeting adjourn to Friday, March 4, 1955, at 5:00 p.m. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

A. H. BARTLETT, City Clerk of
the City of Torrance

By I. J. Hallanger
I. J. Hallanger, Deputy City
Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

Nicholas O. Drale
Mayor of the City of Torrance